

**MINUTES BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2016**

The Village of Cold Spring Board of Trustees held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at Village Hall, 85 Main Street, Cold Spring, NY beginning at 7:30 pm.

Attending: Mayor Dave Merandy and Trustees Frances Murphy, Marie Early, Michael Bowman and Cathryn Fadde

Also: Ellen Mageean, Village Accountant; Greg Phillips, Water and Wastewater Superintendent; Kathleen Foley, Vice Chair of the HDRB; Jennifer Zwarich, Chair Tree Advisory Board
Robert Flaherty, Town of Philipstown Council arriving after the start of the meeting

Mayor Merandy opened the meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Monthly Reports

Planning Board reported on the status of applications before them including approval of proposed renovation/reconstruction of 15 Main Street, referral to counsel of application for 26 Rock Street subdivision, 20 The Boulevard subdivision/ lot line adjustment. The board has received applications for change of use for 69 Main Street, and 178 Main Street.

Historic District Review Board continues to wait for delivery of draft revisions to Chapter 64 of the village code from Attorney William Hurst. The board met with Attorney John Furst to discuss HDRB responsibilities under State Environmental Quality Review Act and the process going forward. The HDRB plans to draft a State Historic Preservation grant proposal for board review. A public hearing has been scheduled on January 20th for proposed changes to 178 Main Street.

Peter Fairbanks, Senior Chemist of AECOM provided the anticipated schedule for remediation activities at the New Street site for the period 1/11/2016 -01-22/2016.

Jennifer Zwarich reported on the monthly activities of the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) including progress toward completing a draft tree management plan. The TAB considered an application for removal of a small Kwanzan Cherry located on public property at 54 Parrott Street. After holding a public hearing and applying the standard criteria for removal of public trees, the board recommended that the Village Board approve this application.

Trustee Early moved to accept the recommendation of the Tree Advisory Board for the Santos tree at 54 Parrott Street and seconded by Trustee Fadde and unanimously approved.

The Code Update Committee has reached consensus on the topics of Restricting Main Street Shop Front Buildings to Commercial Uses, and Livable Floor Area. Two additional topics are close to completion. The remaining six topics, required for the first public meeting, are also being addressed. The committee hopes to conduct the public meeting by the end of March.

Financial Report

Bank balances were reviewed along with the budget calendar. The tax cap restricts the increase in the tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year to 0.12%, or an allowed increase of \$1,882. Factoring in the growth factor, it is likely that the increase in the tax levy cannot exceed \$3,000. The Village Accountant discussed the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance tax freeze and elements of the plan that the village submitted at the end of May 2015.

Water and Wastewater Report

Reservoir levels have increased to 96%. The department will be presenting recommendations to the board on replacement water meters by the end of the month. Underground oil tanks were removed from the grounds of the water treatment facility.

Mayor Merandy moved to remove the outdoor water ban and seconded by Trustee Fadde and unanimously approved.

With regards to the Wastewater Aeration Replacement and Electrical Upgrade, the new electrical service is online as well as the new emergency generator. There are several additional items/issues which are currently being addressed and a punch list is being generated.

The village was denied a grant in the first round of the Clean Water Revolving Fund for funding the Market Street Pump Station Replacement and Collection System Rehabilitation. We recently learned that the village can apply for low interest financing and be eligible for the second round of grant awards.

Code Enforcement

Activity for the month of December included: twenty-seven building permits, one alarm permit, nine complaints and forty certificates of occupancy issued. Trustee Early will follow up with the Building Inspector to clarify the timing of the activities outlined in this report.

Highway Department

The department completed preparations for winter, repairs to vehicles, garbage, recycling and yard debris collections, installed guard rails at the municipal lot and cleared brooks of debris. The guard rail for the municipal parking lot was provided by the state without charge and delivered by Roger Chirico of the Philipstown Highway Department. He was thanked for his contribution.

Police and Justice Court

The Police Department responded to 80 calls for service during the month, issued 30 parking violations, issued 42 tickets for various traffic infractions and one arrest.

The Justice Court collected \$6,473.00 during December 2015.

Report of the Mayor and Board of Trustees

Mayor Merandy recommended Bruce Campbell as chair of the Independence Day Committee. Trustee Bowman moved to appoint Bruce Campbell as chair of the Independence Day Committee and seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously approved.

Correspondence

Penflex, Inc. informed the village of changes to statutes which regulate credits earned toward Length of Service Award Programs. Employees of political subdivisions will receive credit for volunteer firefighting activities performed during regularly assigned workdays.

Trustee Bowman offered to work on a draft resolution to set policies for Village employees who respond to fires within the village.

New York State Congresswoman Sandy Galef of the 95th District will host Town Hall meetings at various locations. One of these meetings will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the Butterfield Library.

The New York Department of Public Service is sponsoring a series of regional information sessions and public statement hearings regarding a petition that seeks approval for Cablevision to transfer certain telephone and cable systems to Altice.

Old Business

The board discussed adding a proposition to the March 2016 ballot regarding changing the date of the village election to November in the year 2018. This change could result in a \$6,500 savings per year to the village. The majority of board members supported putting forth a proposition to hear what voters want. Trustee Bowman expressed concern that this change would polarize voters into the national election cycle.

Resident input was sought on this issue:

Mike Armstrong supported this change for the following reasons:

- a. decreases burden on the electorate with fewer elections
- b. with the election aligned with the town election it creates a better context for information processing and more complete picture at the time the individual votes
- c. better turnout
- d. the most important point is that this change would improve the budget process

Kathleen Foley asked if a public forum would be held to assist the public in obtaining a full set of facts to weigh the pros and cons of the proposed election proposition. She sees the tax cap as the driving force for changing the date of the election. Further, she doesn't think that the change in election date will help with capital planning. Ms. Foley questioned whether the benefit derived from the tax freeze was worth the sacrifices. She asked board members to bring questions about the tax cap and tax freeze to Representative Sandy Galef at the upcoming Town Hall meeting.

Frank Haggerty, resident of 12 Main Street, sees savings from a change in the date of the Village election as small but the cost of this change is more dramatic. There would be less time to focus on village specific matters without the noise and intrusions of other municipalities during the November election.

Wi-Fi Installation

Managed Technologies provided a proposal to install Wi-Fi in Village Hall for \$341.28. Trustee Murphy moved to accept the proposal from Managed Technologies to install Wi-Fi in Village Hall and seconded by Trustee Bowman and unanimously approved.

New Business

Mayor Merandy moved to approve of the 2015 Fireman's Service Award Point Listing and seconded by Trustee Murphy. Vote: Mayor Merandy, Trustees Murphy, Early and Fadde voted in favor and Trustee Bowman abstained as he is on the point list.

Bill Approval

Trustee Early moved to approve payment of the audited bills Batch # 3405 in the amount of \$67,099.06 and seconded by Trustee Fadde and unanimously carried.

Public Comment

Frank Haggerty spoke on the tax cap and the struggles for municipalities like Cold Spring with increasing demands.

Robert Flaherty, Town of Philipstown Councilman reported that the Town of Philipstown approved \$2,000 for a camera system to monitor the medication drop box. It is expected that the box will be in place by the end of February.

With no further business, Trustee Early moved to adjourn and seconded by Trustee Fadde and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Saari, Village Clerk